



DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
KAGAWARAN NG UGNAYANG PANLABAS

DEPARTMENT ORDER NO. 10 2020

**RENAMING OF THE OFFICES OF THE UNDERSECRETARY FOR POLICY (UP)
AND UNDERSECRETARY FOR INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS
(UIER) AND REORGANIZATION OF POLICY OFFICES' REPORTING LINES**

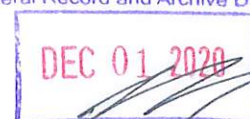
SECTION 1. LEGAL BASES

The following are the legal bases of this Department Order:

1. Republic Act No. 7157 or the "Philippine Foreign Service Act of 1991," which authorizes the Secretary to issue rules and regulations as may be necessary to implement the provisions of the Act; to review periodically all existing administrative rules and regulations with the end in view of updating such rules and regulations which may be inconsistent with the national interest, and to review and realign periodically the principal offices of the Department to effectively meet the requirements of the Foreign Service;
2. Executive Order No. 292 or the "Administrative Code of 1987," which vests in the Secretary the power to establish the policies and standards for the operations of the Department pursuant to the approved programs of government; promulgate rules and regulations necessary to carry out Department objectives, policies, functions, plans, programs, and projects, as well as administrative issuances, necessary for the efficient administration of the offices under the Secretary and the proper execution of the laws relative thereto;
3. Administrative Order No. 20 of 2011 on Reorganizing and Renaming the Philippine Council on Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) into The Philippine Council for Regional Cooperation which covers concerns arising from or within the context of the ASEAN, APEC, Forum for East Asia - Latin America Cooperation (FEALAC), Asia- Europe Meeting (ASEM), and similar regional initiatives;
4. Department Order 19-2015 or Phase I of the Institutional Strengthening of the DFA, which provides for the implementation of Phase I of the Department's Institutional Strengthening and Productivity Improvement (ISPI) Program under the General Appropriations Act, pursuant to the letter dated 20 July 2015 issued by the Department of Budget and Management, while the Department is undergoing a continuing review of its organizational structure as part of Phase II of its ISPI Program;
5. Department Order 08-2014 or Realignment of Jurisdiction of Department Undersecretaries, which enumerates the principal offices reporting to a specific Undersecretary; and

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6. Resolution 1 Series of 2006 Signed by the DBM and the Civil Service Commission on the Rationalization Program's Organization and Staffing Standards and Guidelines which provides a common reference for designing organization structure and determining the staffing requirement of agencies of the Executive Branch.

SECTION 2. OBJECTIVES

1. Under this Department Order, the office of the "Undersecretary for Policy" is hereby renamed office of the "Undersecretary for Bilateral Relations and ASEAN Affairs" and the office of the "Undersecretary for International Economic Relations" as the office of the "Undersecretary for Multilateral Affairs and International Economic Relations" in order to strengthen the conduct of the country's bilateral and multilateral diplomacy;
2. Furthermore, this Department Order hereby institutionalizes the reporting lines of the concerned offices under the Undersecretary for Bilateral Relations and ASEAN Affairs and the Undersecretary for Multilateral Affairs and International Economic Relations in order to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the Department in pursuing foreign policy initiatives and responses amidst the evolving demands of international relations.

SECTION 3. SCOPE

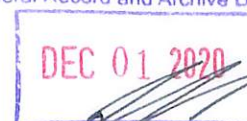
This Department Order shall apply to the offices of the Undersecretary for Policy and the Undersecretary for International Economic Relations with respect to their functions as policy advisers to the Secretary of Foreign Affairs and as supervising offices for bilateral and multilateral diplomacy.

SECTION 4. REPORTING LINES

Consistent with the objectives of this Department Order, the reporting lines of Policy Offices are hereby modified as follows:

- **Undersecretary for Bilateral Relations and ASEAN Affairs**
 - Office of American Affairs
 - Office of ASEAN Affairs
 - Office of Asian and Pacific Affairs
 - Office of European Affairs
 - Office of Middle East and African Affairs
 - Maritime and Ocean Affairs Office
- **Undersecretary for Multilateral Affairs and International Economic Relations**
 - Office of International Economic Relations
 - Office of United Nations and International Organizations
 - APEC National Secretariat

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Matters related to FEALAC and ASEM shall continue to be handled by the relevant geographic offices but shall henceforth be under the supervision of the Undersecretary for Multilateral Affairs and International Economic Relations.

For cross-cutting areas and issues, concerned principal offices shall continue to coordinate and consult with the relevant Undersecretaries.

As may be further warranted, administrative and staff office support for the Undersecretaries shall be further strengthened and provided. Supplementary issuance shall be undertaken to further rationalize and delineate functions and secretariat operations assigned to the DFA.

SECTION 5. FUNCTIONS

The Undersecretary for Bilateral Relations and ASEAN Affairs and the Undersecretary for Multilateral Affairs and International Economic Relations shall undertake the following functions:

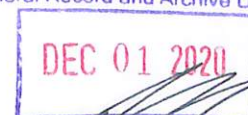
1. Advise and assist the Secretary of Foreign Affairs in the formulation and implementation of Philippine foreign policy, as well as coordinate and oversee the political and economic functions of the Department in advancing the interests of the Philippines in the world community;
2. Recommend policies to the Secretary of Foreign Affairs on matters relating to the development and advancement of Philippine foreign policy particularly with respect to political affairs, national security concerns, and economic cooperation at bilateral, regional, and multilateral levels and in pursuit of the preservation and enhancement of national security, including the protection of territorial integrity and national sovereignty, and national development;
3. Coordinate and oversee the management of the objectives, strategies, programs, projects, and other activities in the implementation of Philippine foreign policy and cooperation with partner countries and international organizations under the Undersecretary's jurisdiction; and
4. Coordinate with other Philippine government agencies in developing country positions on various political, economic, and security issues with foreign policy implications.

Corollary to the above, the above-mentioned Undersecretaries shall also perform the following duties:

Undersecretary for Bilateral Relations and ASEAN Affairs

1. Promote the Philippines' relations with bilateral partners;
2. Promote the Philippines' interests in the ASEAN and its related forums.

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3. Participate in bilateral, ASEAN and related meetings and consultations pertaining to political, security, and economic matters, as well as in Cabinet and Inter-Agency meetings and consultations related thereto;
4. Implement and coordinate Department policies and positions on the overall bilateral relations covering political, security and economic matters;
5. Supervise Policy Offices on matters pertaining to bilateral relations and ASEAN affairs;
6. Represent the Philippines as Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) Leader in ASEAN and related forums;
7. Represent the DFA in inter-agency and other meetings, as may be directed by the Secretary of Foreign Affairs, such as the National Task Force on West Philippine Sea issues; and
8. Chair the Policy Advisory Board, relevant meetings with the concerned policy offices on bilateral and ASEAN matters, and other bodies assigned by the Secretary of Foreign Affairs.

Undersecretary for Multilateral Affairs and International Economic Relations

1. Promote the Philippines' relations with multilateral partners and international organizations;
2. Participate in multilateral forums and meetings pertaining to political, security, and economic matters as well as in Cabinet and Inter-Agency meetings and consultations related thereto;
3. Implement and coordinate Department policies and positions related to trade and investments, tourism, science and technology, environment, and other economic concerns, as well as development cooperation with multilateral partners and international organizations;
4. Supervise Policy Offices on matters pertaining to multilateral relations;
5. Serve as Philippine representative and ex-officio senior official in various established and emerging inter-governmental regional and international fora, including the United Nations, APEC, ASEM, FEALAC, ACD, and Pacific Alliance meetings to which the Philippines is a current or prospective member, observer or convener;
6. Serve as Philippine lead, representative and liaison to other established or emerging international non-governmental, non-profit high-level multi-stakeholder collaborative development regional and international fora and networks including the Boao Forum for Asia (BFA), the World Economic Forum (WEF), the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council and the New Economy Forum;

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7. Represent the DFA as Chair or member in socio-economic and sectoral inter-agency boards, councils and other meetings, in the ex-officio capacities of the Foreign Secretary or alternate and as may be directed by the Secretary of Foreign Affairs; and
8. Serve as Alternate Chair of the Policy Advisory Board, and chair meetings with the concerned policy offices on multilateral matters, and other bodies assigned by the Secretary of Foreign Affairs.

SECTION 6. TRANSITORY CLAUSE

The concerned offices shall continue to operate within their respective budgets, and full implementation of the provisions of this Department Order will take effect after budgetary allocations for applicable programs and activities shall have been realigned.

SECTION 7. REPEALING CLAUSE

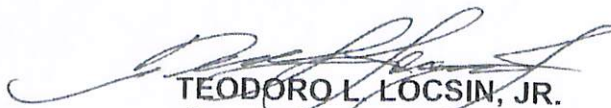
This Department Order supersedes all other Department Orders, Department Circulars, and all other internal collective instructions issued, or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Order.

SECTION 8. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE

If any section or part of this Department Order is declared contrary to law or unconstitutional by a competent authority, the remaining sections or parts hereof shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 9. EFFECTIVITY

This Order shall take effect after fifteen (15) days from the date of its deposit with the Office of the National Administrative Register (ONAR), University of the Philippines Law Center.


TEODORO L. LOCSIN, JR.
Secretary of Foreign Affairs

Pasay City,

NOV 25 2020

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